

# TALON TIMES

***Mission: Plan, direct and control all air operations in support of amphibious forces, and provide combat-ready-detachments to deployed Amphibious Ready Groups.***

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**TACRON TWELVE**  
*Commanding Officer,  
CDR Daniel P. Hopkins*



## **FROM THE COMMANDER'S DESK...**

**TACRON TWELVE**  
**OCT/NOV/DEC**

Hello everyone. It seems as if the fall and winter just blew right by. It is hard to keep track of the seasons in a place like San Diego. As we "recover" from the Holidays, it is important that we refocus on our Operational commitments to come. I know that you are all up to the challenge as we plan to deploy more personnel than we have in nearly three years. Do not fret, because I know that you are all ready to go every day! .

DET THREE completed the planned events of their deployment by supporting Forward Deployed Naval Forces (FDNF) in the Pacific. They embarked the USS BONHOMME RICHARD (LHD-6) and did an outstanding job controlling USMC and Australian aircraft during the TALISMAN SABER and KOOLENDONG 2013 Exercises with the Australian Military. DET THREE also enjoyed an epic Hong Kong port visit which they will remember for a lifetime. I am glad that we were able to balance the operational risk of bringing them home in time for the Holiday events.

On November 8, 2013, typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda devastated the Philippines and was one of the most destructive typhoons to ever hit the region with wind gusts above 200 mph. As a result, your TALONS sprang into action by sending forward three Expeditionary Response Teams and several Air Liaison Officers to assist in the recovery effort during Operation DAMAYAN. Our teams arrived in Okinawa 24 hours before they were required to embark the USS ASHLAND and made an immediate impact on the ground upon arrival in the Philippines. Their ability to flex and utilize their creativity and move the necessary aid packages to a desperate populace was extraordinary and highly commendable.

I was very pleased with the outstanding effort by our MWR team to make the Chili cook-off, and Children and Adult Holiday parties the best ever. Their hard work behind the scenes was awesome and they made hard work look easy. All of these events were fun and classy at the same time. The DJ at the Holiday party was even good enough for me to make a one-legged, kilted go on the dance floor. I would also like to congratulate CS1 Willie Taylor on his performance based spot promotion to First Class Petty Officer. Thanks again for a great series of events. The TALONS were out in force for each of them!

I am looking forward to the spring Detachments to come. We will have nearly half the Squadron deployed this spring onboard the USS BONHOMME RICHARD (DET ONE) and USS PELELIU (DET FOUR) in support of Forward Deployed Naval Forces and the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) Exercise in Hawaii. Your preparation and skills will make these Deployments a guaranteed success.

Finally, I want to thank you for all the hard work that you do every day to make the Squadron better. Continue to work smarter, not harder, and keep striving for continuous professional and personal improvement. Always remember to do things the TALON WAY!

**Best Wishes,  
CDR Daniel "Disco" Hopkins**

**[dan.hopkins@navy.mil](mailto:dan.hopkins@navy.mil)**

**69-437-2594**



## *The Ombudsman Corner*



Phone Contact Information: (619) 203-4101

Email: [t12ombudsman@gmail.com](mailto:t12ombudsman@gmail.com)

*Hello Tacron 12 Family!*  
*Your TACRON 12 Command Family Ombudsman:*

### ***Mrs. Tenyce Mobley***

**This is your communication link between the Commanding Officer and family members. Ombudsmen are mainly Information and Referral Specialists who help command family members gain the assistance they need – especially relevant for deploying commands.**

**Ombudsmen maintain current resource files with information on military and civilian community agencies that can help families solve a variety of problems, and successfully meet the challenges they face before , during, and after deployments.**

**Above is the contact information for Tacron 12 ombudsman who can assist you with finding the help and services you need.**

***For more helpful information to assist active duty and their families, visit Military One Source at <http://www.militaryonesource.mil/>***







*Home is where  
the heart is*



Sittercity can help  
you find:

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Whether your loved ones live near or  
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**Did your spouse recently deploy?** Don't forget that The United States Postal Service (USPS) offers **FREE** packing material to families of military members deployed Overseas! **To order call: (800) 610-8734. Press "1" (For English). Press "1" again (For Operator). Ask for the "Carekit04".**



This Military OneSource Navy portal allows access to Navy-specific news, resources and social media with a simple click. Navy's fleet and family programs provide a full array of services, information and tools to assist Sailors and family members in achieving personal and career goals as they excel in meeting the obligations and challenges of Navy life through resilience and self-reliance.

*Call. Click. Connect.*

[http:// www.militaryonesource.mil/ navy](http://www.militaryonesource.mil/navy)



June was Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Awareness Month. Although we've entered into July, I still feel it's important to share. PTSD is a serious condition that affects a growing number of wounded warriors and their families. To learn more about PTSD and find helpful resources or to access information on warrior care, contact **Navy Wounded Warrior - Safe Harbor** at **855-NAVY WWP (855 628-9997)**, [navywoundedwarrior@navy.mil](mailto:navywoundedwarrior@navy.mil) or <http://safeharbor.navylive.dodlive.mil>

## FOCUS: Family Resiliency Training™ for Military Families

### *Strengthening the Home Base!*

**FOCUS (Families Over Coming Under Stress™)** provides resiliency training to military children and families. It also teaches practical skills to meet the challenges of deployment and reintegration, to communicate and solve problems effectively and to successfully set goals together and create a shared family story.

#### Site Location

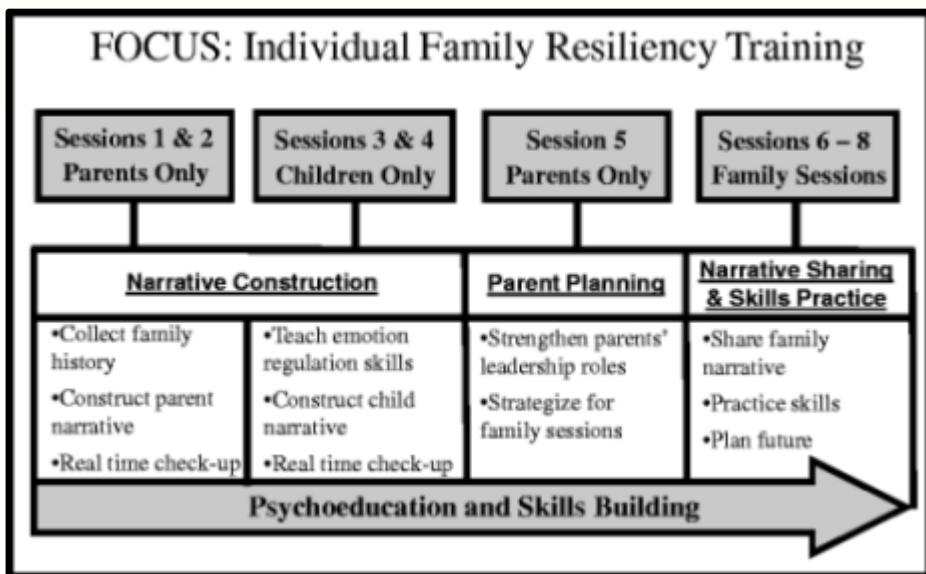
Naval Base San Diego San Diego, CA 92136

Dolphin Alley, Bldg. 265

Phone 619.556.6075

Fax 619.556.6076

[SanDiego@ focusproject.org](mailto:SanDiego@focusproject.org)







# Fleet and Family Support



Meeting Your Needs at Home & at Sea

FFSP provides services through the Fleet and Family Support Centers (FFSC) such as relocation assistance, new parent support, deployment services, clinical counseling services, financial management counseling, family employment services, family advocacy and the relocation assistance programs to assist service members and their families in need. FFSC has also recently opened a NEW SANTEE BRANCH!

**\*\*\*One Call Serves All!\*\*\***

For 24/7 assistance at any Navy Region Southwest FFSC, call 1-866-923-6478. For more information on Fleet and Family Support Programs, please <http://navylifesw.com/sandiego/families/ffsc/>.



Career Services



Command Leadership Corner



Counseling and Assistance



Deployment Support



Disaster Preparedness



Family Enrichment



Financial Support



Relocation Support



Retiree Support



Sexual Assault Prevention and Response

## Fleet & Family Support Center Locations (Near TACRON TWELVE)

Mon. - Fri., 7:30 am - 4:30 pm, Closed Sat., Sun., and holidays (unless otherwise noted)

### Naval Base San Diego

3005 Corbina Alley  
Bldgs. 259 & 263  
San Diego, CA  
(619) 556-7404

### Naval Base Coronado

318 Saufley Rd.  
Bldg. 318  
San Diego, CA  
(619) 545-6701



# SAN DIEGO METRO

COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAMS

## \*\*\*Upcoming Events\*\*\*



### Ask the Trainer

February 12 • 11am-1pm • NASNI Main Fitness Center, Bldg 281 & Sports Warehouse Gym Bldg. 651

Take advantage with some one-on-one counseling to help reach your fitness goals. For more information call:  
Main Fitness Center 619-545-2877/Sports Warehouse Gym 619-545-0237

### Family Fitness & Movie Night

March 7 • 5:30-8:30 pm • NMAWC Fitness Center Bldg. 43 • FREE

Parents and children of all ages are welcome to join MWR Fitness for an evening of fun family and fitness followed by a movie. T-shirt, goodie bag and snacks are provided for all participants, plus prizes.

619-552-4259



### St. Patrick's Day 5K Run/1 Mile Walk

March 12 • 10 am • FREE • Admiral Prout Field House Track  
Open to all ID card holders!

### Navy's Woof Walk

March 22 • 9 am • FREE • Admiral Baker Picnic Area  
Grab a leash and your four-legged friend and join us for a dog-gone good time to help raise funds for Navy Quality of Life Programs, benefiting our local San Diego Sailors and their family members.

<https://navylifesw.com/woofwalk/>



Support the thousands of sailors in the San Diego area by sponsoring programs and events throughout the year.

Click the following link for more information:

<http://navylifesw.com/sandiego/about/sponsorship/>

# Balboa Park Highlights

October 19, 2013 - February 25, 2014

## **Women, War, and Industry**

The ways in which women have been represented in relation to war and industry in modern and contemporary art.

*The San Diego Museum of Art*

October 5, 2013 - March 20, 2014

## **Please be Seated**

Wide-ranging examples of seating from many periods and cultures..

*Mingei International*

Now thru June 1, 2014

## **EXPLOR-O-RAMA**

Interactive exhibits from San Francisco's Exploratorium.

*Reuben H. Fleet Science Center*

March 15 - July 8, 2014

## **Alfredo Jaar: Muxima**

A cinematic elegy to the people of Angola

*The San Diego Museum of Art*



July 14, 2012-July 14, 2014

## **Instruments of Torture**

Thumbscrews. The Breast-Ripper. The Iron Maiden. How could human beings have fashioned these monstrosities of metal? Is torture caused by bad people - or bad circumstances? Why is torture still alive and well today? See the devices, learn the truth, and discover how to break the cycle.

*San Diego Museum of Man*

August 24, 2013 - August 24, 2014

## **BEERology**

Ancient Egyptians, Sumerians, Chinese, and others each perfected the brewing arts in interesting, and even strange, ways. Beer-loving headhunters from the Amazon, for example, did the amazing trick of chewing poisonous cassava root so it could become a drinkable beer. Learn fascinating stories and see phenomenal artifacts that reveal the links between beer and culture.

*San Diego Museum of Man*

February 8 - September 1, 2014

## **Real Pirates: The Untold Story of the Whydah from Slave Ship to Pirate Ship**

National Geographic's *Real Pirates: The Untold Story of the Whydah from Slave Ship to Pirate Ship* features more than 200 artifacts recovered from the ocean floor.

*Real Pirates* tells the true story of the *Whydah*—a real pirate ship that sank off the coast of Cape Cod nearly 300 years ago—and showcases treasure chests of coins and gold, jewelry, weaponry such as cannons, pistols, and knives and a replica of the actual ship that visitors can board.

*theNAT*



San Diego Military Outreach Ministries (MOM) is a community supported charity that reaches out to young enlisted military families (E-5 and below and wounded warriors) in San Diego with a broad range of helping services. Among the services listed below, they also host regular motivational briefings on base.

(For more details, visit [www.sandiegomom.org](http://www.sandiegomom.org), or call (619) 461-4164.



Children's & Infant's Supplies...



... to include diaper bags filled with personal items



Food bags & Gift Cards



Household Goods & Furniture



Toys & Bikes



Baby Showers At Navy/Marine Bases



Family Readiness Gatherings & Holiday Events



\*\*\*Celebrating Young Military Families\*\*\*





# Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society



The mission of the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society is to provide, in partnership with the Navy and Marine Corps, financial, educational and other assistance to members of the Naval Services of the United States, eligible family members and survivors when in need and to receive and manage funds to administer these programs.

**Our Vision:** We are a private, non-profit, volunteer, service organization. As a Center of Excellence, we are committed to ensure that all available resources are used to assist personnel of the Naval Services - active, retired, and their eligible family members to achieve financial self-sufficiency and find solutions to emergency needs.

## NMCRS San Diego, FSO

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society  
Bldg. 270, 3115 Dolphin Alley; PO Box 131470

Naval Base San Diego  
San Diego, CA 92170

Hours: Mon-Fri 0800-1600

Phone: (619) 238-1587/1589

DSN: 526-8283

Fax: (619) 531-0083

Email: [barry.white@nmcrs.org](mailto:barry.white@nmcrs.org)

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## Navy College Opportunities



Visit your local **Navy College office**! Navy College professionals provide educational services world-wide, anytime, anyplace to Sailors and their families, supporting their life-long learning goals and the Navy's mission. The following link provides information regarding the SOCNAV program and other benefits available to military families. Take full advantage of all of the awesome resources **Navy College** has to offer and go back to school!

Website: [http://www.soc.aascu.org/socnav/Spouses\\_AidResources](http://www.soc.aascu.org/socnav/Spouses_AidResources)





# American Red Cross



As a reminder, the American Red Cross has moved to a single telephone number for its emergency communication services.

All military members and their families can use one number: **877-272-7337 (U.S. Toll Free)** to send an urgent message to a service member. This means that all military members and their families can use this single number to initiate an emergency communication, regardless of where they live.

A call to **877-272-7337** allows Red Cross emergency communications services to put military personnel in touch with their families following the death or serious illness of an immediate family member, the birth of a service member's child or grandchild or when a family faces other emergencies.

Additional Red Cross services such as case management and emergency financial assistance also are available. For those stationed overseas, the three options for calling will remain the same: calling **877-272-7337** direct, accessing the number through a military operator or calling the local Red Cross station.

*\*For more information about the American Red Cross, and how you can reach out and donate, visit their website at [http:// www.redcross.org/](http://www.redcross.org/) \**





# COMTACGRU ONE 2013 HOLIDAY PARTY

MWR Page

What a great turnout we had! Thanks to all the hard work everyone put in for 2013. Without each and every one of you, we would not be able to accomplish what we did. With all the events and contributions, TACRON TWELVE was able to raise \$17,000 to put towards our annual Holiday Party and the raffle prizes, and boy were those prizes something! There was everything you could imagine, from Xbox 360s and iPod Minis to GoPros and Bicycles.

The 2013 Coachella Valley Music and Arts Annual Festival, and the 2013 California Country Music Festival Stagecoach provided us with a great volunteer opportunity to earn money for the Holiday Party. It didn't stop there, though, during the 2013 TACRON 12 Luau, we did the "Pie in the Face" fundraiser which sure got a lot of people wired up. Once Football season started back up, we began helping out at the San Diego Chargers games, attending a total of 6 games throughout the season. In October we also conducted our annual Halloween Party. I'm sure everyone remembers the Costume Contest and Dunk Tank, and who could forget all that delicious Chili that was brought in. It really was a fantastic year of fundraising by the Talons.

In December, we held our annual CTG-1 Children's Christmas Party which provided the children of CTG-1 a fabulous opportunity to jump in numerous bounce houses, receive gift packages, and even meet Santa Claus! LCDR Threlkeld's three year old daughter stated, "I had a really fun time!" Pictures can be seen at: <https://2013childrensholidayparty.shutterfly.com/>

OS2 Nicole Mora, AC2 Glenn Natividad, and OS2 Kori Johnson did an amazing job of putting everything together and making sure all the events ran as smooth as possible. The MWR Committee would also like to give a big shout out to everyone who supported and gave their time unselfishly to help us have the best Holiday Party ever!

# Detachment THREE

Det THREE recently returned from our Summer/Fall 2013 patrol embarked on USS BONHOMME RICHARD. It was a successful deployment to the far side of the world – literally – as the det crossed the equator twice in three months, spending over 60 days in Australian waters while controlling air operations during Exercises TALISMAN SABER and KOOLENDONG. The det controlled and managed over 1200 sorties and 1800 flight hours flown by USMC and USN aircraft, including the first forward deployed MV-22 Osprey squadron. Most importantly, we were able to maximize our training opportunities while experiencing some of the best ports in the Western Pacific.

The det sailed south in mid-June from Okinawa. After a Fourth of July crossing-the-line ceremony, the season rapidly transitioned to winter as we approached the land Down Under. After a few cool days respite in Brisbane (rumor has it that many koalas were hugged), it was off to the Shoalwater Bay Training Area near Rockhampton for the biennial TALISMAN SABER exercise with the Australian Defense Forces.

For three weeks our TACC controllers experienced hi-density air control in a dynamic environment, including live-bombing missions and waves of F-18s operating from the aircraft carrier USS GEORGE WASHINGTON. AC2 Torres and ACAN Hickman represented TACRON ashore as augments to the Marine Mobile Team controlling the airspace in the training area.



At the successful completion of the exercise and additional missions in support of 31<sup>st</sup> MEU certification, the det headed to Sydney and docked within sight of renowned landmarks like the Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge. After five arduous weeks at sea, Sydney's sights and sounds were as intoxicating as could be expected, but before we could ingest too many meat pies it was off to Darwin to support the Marine Expeditionary Unit in the Bradshaw Field Training Area. Dubbed Exercise KOOLENDONG, the Marines spent two weeks in the Outback testing various capabilities while TACC provided control and airspace clearance from sea. Fortunately no one was consumed by the local crocs during two Darwin visits (although a tourist was) and other than some lighter wallets, a lost iPad, and a few bags of souvenirs, we left Australian waters and headed to the Orient.

A quick jaunt through the Indonesian and Philippine archipelagos brought us pier side in one of the world's great cities: Hong Kong, China. The scent of exotic spices, wafting on the humid breeze, immediately assaulted our senses and beckoned us ashore to Kowloon and Lan Kwai Fong. Some went in search of cheap electronics; others hiked Victoria's Peak or got lost in Stanley Market; some ate delicious Nepalese food and rode the world's longest escalator; while many simply found a warm bed and clean shower, a joy understood only by those who have sailed for months at sea. Unfortunately our visit was cut a day short due to an incoming typhoon and we spend a few days dodging poor weather and riding out some large swells before finally returning to the ship's homeport of Sasebo, via Okinawa, Japan.



During the underway period the det qualified six TACC Supervisors and nine focused and hardworking Sailors received Enlisted Air & Surface Warfare qualifications. YN2 Campoverde, OS2 Goossen, OS2 Johnson, AC2 Hall, IS3 Venzant, and CSSN Holley received various accolades for exemplary service and solid representation of Talon ideals. All of us were home by November with an early end to our detachment...or so we thought. On 13 November, Super Typhoon Haiyan struck Eastern Samar as the strongest storm to make landfall on record. Within days, Det THREE surged forward and returned 16 members to SEVENTH FLEET to support Humanitarian Relief efforts onboard USS ASHLAND. During three weeks in Leyte Gulf, part of the det was able to load rice, tarps, and canned goods onto MH-60, C-130, and MV-22 aircraft for delivery to outlying islands in the Philippines devastated by the storm. Det members coordinated movements of displaced persons and assisted the Marines coordinating flights into and out of Guiuan Airfield in Eastern Samar. Our efforts, albeit small in the grand scheme, saved lives and brought some relief to a country shell-shocked by the scale of the destruction caused by one storm.



As far as deployments go, we made the most of this one. Our thanks go out to the Talon families who endured our absence with patience and humble resolve, while we served our nation in far-away lands.

**LCDR Ed Murray**  
**Det THREE AOIC**

# Frocking Ceremony

*A job well done and a huge congratulations to the following personnel for advancing to the next rank:*

AC1 GIBBS  
IS2 MARTINEZ  
OS3 WINSTON  
IT2 PENDLEY  
IS2 THOMSEN  
YN2 ALCANTAR  
OS3 RUBIN

AC3 BROWN  
OS3 COLASITO  
AC3 GOLDSCHMIDT  
AC3 JONES  
AC3 DELLORSO  
OS3 THOMAS



Selectees awaiting to be frocked



# Welcome Aboard

LT KANE  
LT MATSUMOTO  
ACC DORICH  
IS1 SHAMRELL  
AC2 HERRMAN  
IS2 THOMSEN

CS2 SMITH  
IS2 ROY  
ACAN MCCLENDON  
YNSA QUINONES  
OSSA TRAN  
YNSR DANG

## Fair Winds and Following Seas

LCDR LITO  
LSC SALAMANCA  
AC2 WARD  
AC2 SPICER

AC2 CRUMP  
AC2 SCOTT  
AC2 EARLY  
OS2 CROWE

YN2 ALCANTAR

## Awards

### NAVY AND MARINE CORPS ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

LSC SALAMANCA  
YN1 MOSBARGER

### GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

OS2 GOOSSEN  
OS2 WINSTON  
AC2 HERRMAN  
AC2 BERTELS  
IS2 THOMSEN  
IS3 BRENNER

*(Continued on following page)*

# Awards

(Cont'd)

## 2013 SDMAC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD NOMINATION

LS1 JAUREGUI

## LETTER OF APPRECIATION

AC2 SCOTT

## NAVY COMMENDATION MEDAL

LT WILLCOX

BLUE JACKET OF THE YEAR: AC3 DELLOROSO

JUNIOR SAILOR OF THE YEAR: AC2 NATIVIDAD

SENIOR SAILOR OF THE YEAR: IT1 GILBERT



To the left: Recognized  
awardees for Good  
Conduct and NAM.

CDR Hopkins awarding  
LSC Salamanca the Navy  
Marine Corps Achievement  
Medal.





# TALON TIMES

## G\*A\*L\*L\*E\*R\*Y



The CO in Australia promoting the Talons!



It was a tough contest as Sailors, from both TACRON 11 and 12, line up to win "Best Costume" at the annual Halloween Party.



CS1 Taylor and AC3 Goldschmidt prepare breakfast, "Eggs your way," to support our local MWR.



TACRON 12 Children's Christmas!

# MAT/ERT



TACRON TWELVE undergoes Helicopter Underwater Egress Trainer at Camp Pendleton, a required qualification to ride onboard USMC helicopters.





# MAT/ERT



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

## January

MAJ EARHART  
LTJG PENNIGTON  
AC1 BISCHOFF  
OS2 GOOSSEN  
AC2 GUPTON  
AC2 JIMENEZ  
IT2 RICHARDS

IT2 PENDLEY  
OS2 WINSTON  
OS3 HARRIS  
IT3 WELLS  
ACAN MCCLENDON  
AN WAGNER  
ACAR WALLER

## February

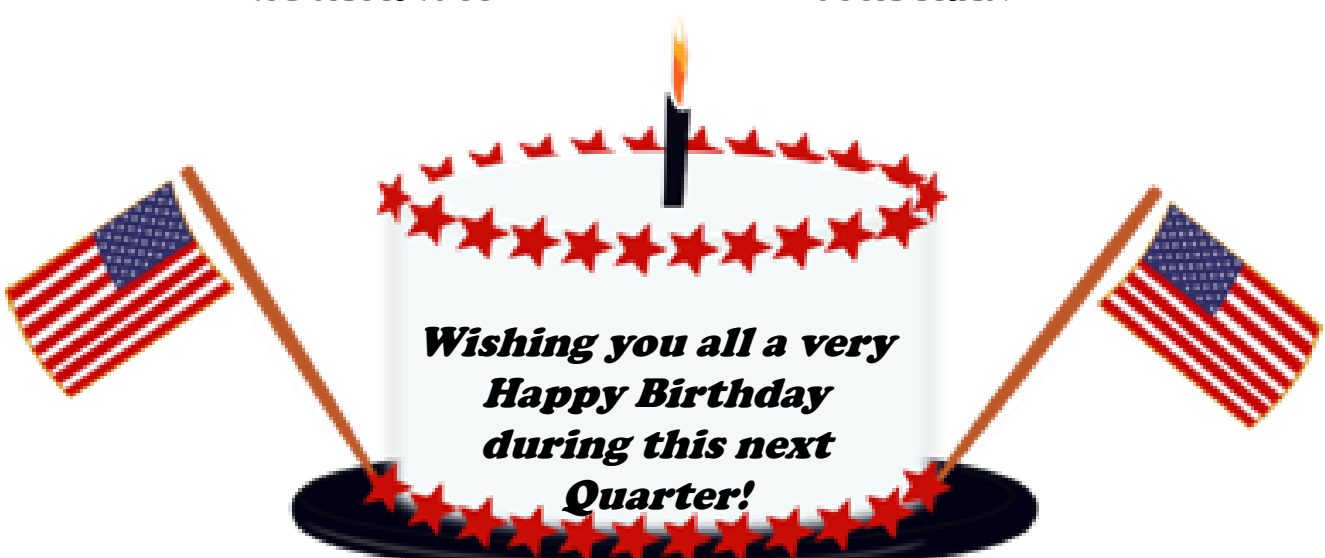
CDR BANDINI  
LCDR COWART  
YN1 MOSBARGER  
IS2 MARTINEZ  
OS2 DYER

YN3 MUTTER  
OS3 COLASITO  
AC3 JONES  
CSSN HOLLEY  
ACAA GOMEZ

## March

LCDR THRELKELD  
LCDR WARREN  
LT TORRES  
ACC MOBLEY  
LSC SALAMANCA  
YN1 VOYCE  
LS1 JAUREGUI

AC1 GIBBS  
AC1 MURPHY  
AC2 ANDERSON  
OS2 MORA  
AC2 HERRMANN  
ACAN HICKMAN  
OSSA TRAN



*Wishing you all a very  
Happy Birthday  
during this next  
Quarter!*



# **TALON TIMES:** **CLOSING REMARKS**

**TACRON TWELVE had a very lively and unforgettable holiday season. The spirit and morale of the Command was tremendously high, and we continue to strive for success in everything we do! As the holiday season comes to a close, we look forward to another outstanding year here at TACRON TWELVE.**

**Keep up the exceptional work Talons!**

*TALON Times Newsletter Editor: IT2 Pendley, Jessica*

